

TVA is updating the 2011 Natural Resource Plan (NRP), which contained six Resource Areas centered on stewardship activities. The 2020 NRP has been expanded to include ten proposed Focus Areas that tell a comprehensive story of TVA's work in natural resources. The NRP is a strategic document that, over the next 15 to 20 years, will guide the direction of TVA's resource stewardship on the 11,000 miles of shoreline and 293,000 acres of public land under its care. Section 26a Permitting and Land Use was not included in the scope of the 2011 NRP, but is one of the ten proposed Focus Areas for the 2020 NRP.

The lands and shoreline along TVA reservoirs are special places, and the Section 26a and land use processes help to ensure that they stay that way. TVA's goal is to protect land and shoreline resources while supporting access to public land and waters.

TVA is entrusted to manage its land and shoreline resources in order to provide multiple benefits to the people of the Tennessee Valley and to serve as a responsible steward of the Tennessee River System.

TVA manages the use of these lands and shorelines in a manner that is consistent with the purposes of the TVA Act. In an effort to best manage the use of these reservoir lands and waters, TVA developed its Land Policy, Shoreline Management Policy, and Section 26a Regulations.



Section 26a Permitting

Section 26a of the TVA Act requires that TVA approval be obtained prior to construction along or in the Tennessee River or its tributaries. Applications for shoreline construction may include requests for boat docks, piers, boathouses, boat-launching ramps, shoreline stabilization, dredging, and floating cabins.

This section of the TVA Act is extremely important because it is designed to ensure that construction along the shoreline and in the waters of the Tennessee River system does not adversely impact or compromise TVA's capability to manage the river system.

TVA reviews and approves about 1,500 construction permits each year, and approximately, 85 percent of these permits are for residential development.

Land Use

The objective of TVA's Land Policy, adopted in 2006, is to preserve the reservoir lands remaining under its control in public ownership. Under this land policy TVA considers requests for major and minor land use actions.

In some rare instances transferring lands from TVA control to another entity is justified because of the significant public benefit. Each year, TVA reviews approximately 25 major reservoir property actions; these actions involve the sale or disposal of TVA's land or land rights, or easements on TVA land. Examples of these actions include providing easements to municipalities and agencies for construction of public infrastructures, such as water lines and roads.

Minor actions reviewed by staff include short term license of TVA land for agricultural use, commercial recreation activities, industrial uses, public infrastructure, and special events. Special events, such as national fishing tournaments and local sporting events, support economic development and tourism in many communities in the Tennessee Valley.

Benefits:

- Balances competing demands to provide public access to the reservoir while protecting natural and cultural resources and TVA's management of the river system
- Provides consistent guidance to support use and development of eligible public lands and shoreline for residential, commercial recreation, public, and industrial purposes
- Supports community development and growth by making TVA public lands and shoreline available for infrastructure and public use

Objectives:

- Manage permission to use the shoreline and public land in a fashion that is consistent with of the TVA Act, Shoreline Management Policy, and the Land Policy
- Seek to develop clear rules and policies, engage in public education and communication, and issue permits and agreements consistent with standing policies
- Support unified development of the Tennessee River system and flood control objectives

Programs

The 2011 NRP did not address TVA's work in Section 26a and Land Use. The 2020 NRP proposes Section 26a and Land Use as a Focus Area which supports TVA's goal to protect the shoreline of the Tennessee River watershed while supporting recreational access to the waters and utilizing the land for the best public use. The Section 26a and Land Use Focus Area includes two programs which align the NRP more consistently with how TVA manages the natural resources of the Tennessee Valley.

**SECTION 26A AND LAND USE IMPLEMENTATION**

TVA applies the Section 26a and Land Use Implementation program in accordance with Section 26a of the TVA Act, TVA's Land Policy, and associated regulations and guidelines. This program helps balance resource conservation, sustainable economic development, and recreation opportunities. TVA will ensure compliance with Section 26a permits and land use agreements through shoreline and land inspections. TVA will evaluate and develop permitting and land use agreement procedural efficiencies and establish clear and meaningful policies, rules, and procedures.

SECTION 26A AND LAND USE STAKEHOLDER EDUCATION AND COMMUNICATION

TVA will engage in stakeholder outreach and communication regarding Section 26a of the TVA Act, TVA's Land Policy, and associated regulations and guidelines. Stakeholders include government entities, lakefront property owners, realtors, dock builders, recreational users, and industrial and commercial entities. TVA will use outlets such as tva.com to provide user-friendly information for stakeholders regarding permitting and land use. To increase awareness of these policies, regulations, and guidelines as provided by Section 26a, TVA will conduct stakeholder outreach workshops and campaigns.